

25. A machine as recited in claim 24, wherein the switch is selectively actuatable by an operator of the machine.--

Remarks

A few days ago, I received a phone call from Examiner Britton with a restriction requirement between three groups of claims, the first group being Claims 1-13 directed to a hybrid drive turf maintenance machine, the second group being claims 14-16, and the third group being claims 17-22. At that time, I elected for prosecution the claims of group I, namely claims 1-13. This election was made without traverse.

I hereby confirm the above-noted election of the invention to which claims 1-13 are directed. Claims 14-22 directed to the non-elected inventions have been canceled without prejudice.

During my phone conversation with Examiner Britton, I indicated that I desired to file a Preliminary Amendment to adjust the claims directed to the elected subject matter. I indicated that I would file such a Preliminary Amendment by fax on May 24, 1999. Examiner Britton agreed to defer the first Office Action until receipt of this Preliminary Amendment in view of my agreement to orally elect a group of claims in response to his restriction requirement. This Preliminary Amendment is that document which I indicated to Examiner Britton would be prepared and filed.

Claim 1 has been amended so that the last clause thereof will now read as follows:

"(iv) an electric power supply circuit for connecting the electric motors to the electric power generating device and to the battery power source to allow electric power to be supplied to

the electric motors at least from either the electric power generating device or from both the electric power generating device and battery power source."

The changes to claim 1 delete the use of means plus function claiming terminology and clarify how power is supplied to the electric motors. Power is supplied from the electric power generating device when the power available from that device is sufficient to meet the power draw from the electric motors. When the power available from the electric power generating device is insufficient to meet the power draw from the electric motors, then power is supplied from both the electric power generating device and the battery power source. The either/or recitation now better reflects that claim 1 calls for a circuit that supplies power in at least these two ways, i.e. "at least from either the electric power generating device or from both the electric power generating device and battery power source."

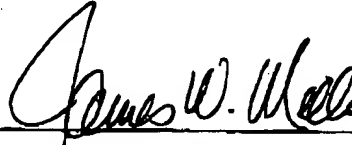
New claims 23-25 have been added to further protect the elected invention. As clearly reflected in the specification, this invention relates to a turf maintenance machine whose traction system is powered at least partially by an internal combustion engine or partially by a battery power source, as set forth in new claim 23. Moreover, this invention relates to a turf maintenance machine that can have a relatively louder mode when the internal combustion engine is running or a quiet mode when only the battery power source is powering the machine, as set forth in new claims 24 and 25.

No additional fee is required on account of the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, even though new claims are presented, due to the cancellation of claims 14-22.

All the claims in the application following entry of this Preliminary Amendment are allowable. No reference

teaches or suggests in combination with any other reference
the claimed subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,



May 24, 1999

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